

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKANE 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Spokesman Review-Tyler Tjomsland

2021 Year in Weather Inland Northwest NWS Spokane



Photo: Stevens Pass-WSDOT



Photo: Spokesman Review-Jesse Tinsley



Photo: Fires around Nespalem



Photo: Comstock Park/Spokane - NWS

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Comstock Park
Spokane South Hill
NWS



North of Odessa, WA



Spokane, WA

Jan 13, 2021

A strong cold front swept through eastern Washington on the morning of January 13th. Widespread gusts of 50 to 60 mph were observed across the Columbia Basin, with 60 to 70 mph winds observed in the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene region. The Spokane International Airport tied its second strongest all time wind speed record of 71 mph.

There was widespread damage, downed trees, and power outages throughout much of the Spokane area and parts of north Idaho. At the height of the storm, an approximate 103,000 households throughout the region were without power.



INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Stevens Pass, WA

WSDOT - Feb 22, 2021



Snoqualmie Pass, WA

WSDOT

February, 2021

The mountains of WA and ID received rounds of heavy snow in February.

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center 36 avalanche deaths occurred in the U.S. during the 2020-21 season.

Three separate avalanches killed 3 people in Idaho in February. One fatality occurred in Washington due to an avalanche in February.

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

May 27, 2021

A strong cold front pushed through the Inland Northwest in late May.

Gusty southwest winds after a prolonged period of dry conditions heightened the threat for blowing dust in the Columbia Basin and Western Plains. Wind gusts to 40 mph were common.

Numerous power outages from the wind were reported.

Visibility down to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Othello to Spokane, and several places along I-90 reported as low as “near zero visibility”.



Othello, WA

WSDOT - Feb 22, 2021



Outside Moses Lake, WA



Davenport, WA
WSDOT



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SPOKANE, WA

Issued Dec 2021

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Lancaster, WA
Northwest of Colfax, WA
3 AM - June 15, 2021



Endicott, WA
3 AM - June 15, 2021



Kellogg, ID
4:45 AM - June 15, 2021

June 15, 2021

Rounds of thunderstorms in the early morning hours produced lightning, brief heavy rain, and hail. In particular northern Idaho saw some of the larger hailstones, 0.75" up to 1.25" in size.

Power outages were reported before 7:00 AM for close to 3 hours.

Southeast Washington north and east into northern Idaho Panhandle experienced several hours of thunderstorms with brief heavy rain and frequent lightning.

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

New All Time Records

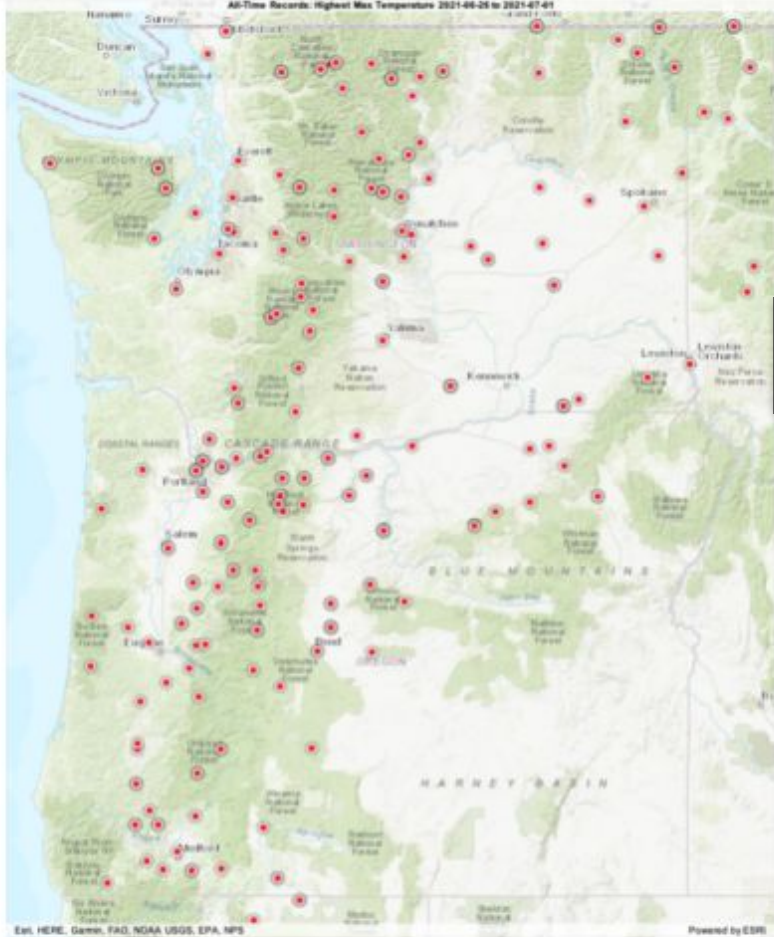


Fig 5: Locations that broke all-time high temperature records during the June 2021 heat wave.



CDA Ironman, 27 Jun 2021
Tyler Tjomsland/The Spokesman-Review

Record Heat June 25-July 4, 2021

Unprecedented heat shattered records, prompted rolling power outages, caused pavement to heave on roads, and contributed to heat related fatalities across the Pacific Northwest.

Site	June 29, 2021	Hottest on Record
Omak WA	117	114 - 26 Jul 1928
Ephrata WA	116	115 - 4 Aug 1961
Wenatchee WA	114	109 - 28 Jun 2015
Northport WA	113	110 - 28 Jul 1934
Spokane WA	109	108 - 4 Aug 1961
Republic WA	109	108 - 2 Jul 1924
Bonniers Ferry ID	108	105 - 11 Aug 2018

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Views around Nespelem

July 12, 2021

A round of thunderstorms and associated gusty west winds ignited fast moving wildfires around the Nespelem area.

The Chuweah Creek Fire forced the town of Nespelem to evacuate, destroyed 4 homes, and burned nearly 37,000 acres.

Record breaking heat and extreme drought caused wildfire season to begin several weeks earlier than normal. July and August were particularly active with large fires burning in many areas in the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



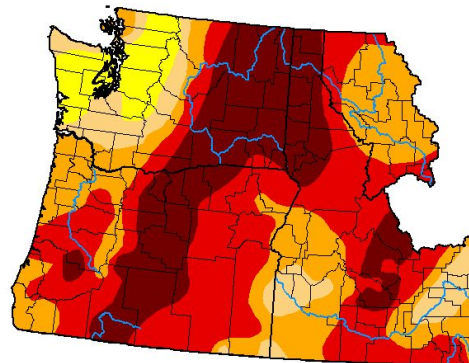
Wheat field near Sprague WA
Spokesman Review-Jesse Tinsley

U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

August 17, 2021
(Released Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	94.19	85.61	59.70	25.20
Last Week 08-10-2021	0.00	100.00	93.99	84.02	58.42	24.76
3 Months Ago 05-18-2021	7.76	92.24	68.80	34.42	9.52	1.27
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	38.14	61.86	40.77	27.90	10.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	21.70	78.30	51.11	28.83	13.73	0.00
One Year Ago 08-18-2020	46.01	53.99	35.89	22.95	5.83	0.00



Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought

Washington is no stranger to drought, having had areas classified as D2 or D3 in recent years. This year, dryness levels were pushed even further. This was the first time in the history of the drought monitor that Washington reached D4 criteria.

Impacts were felt hardest in the agriculture community with incredibly dry soils and streamflows at near record low flows. A lack of spring and summer precipitation was part of this cause.

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Pateros, WA
Nov 14, 2021



November 14-15, 2021

A moisture laden warm front surged into the Inland NW producing mild temperatures and locally damaging winds.

Wind gusts of 50+ mph were common which led to numerous reports of tree damage and power outages.

Heavy rain and mountain snow melt produced widespread flooding across British Columbia, NW Washington, and in Okanogan County.

INLAND NORTHWEST 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



NWS Spokane
@NWSSpokane

What a great question! They're both equally impressive. Today's temps were 20-33 degrees above avg. At the hottest day (6-29) we had temps 25-32 degrees above avg. The impacts from the heat wave were WAY more destructive than warmth today. #wawx #idwx

Brandon @btrayn1 · Dec 1

So what's more impressive, @NWSSpokane? Record 60+ degree highs in December? Or record 110+ degree highs back in June? 🤔 #wawx twitter.com/NWSSpokane/sta...

5:16 PM · Dec 1, 2021 · TweetDeck

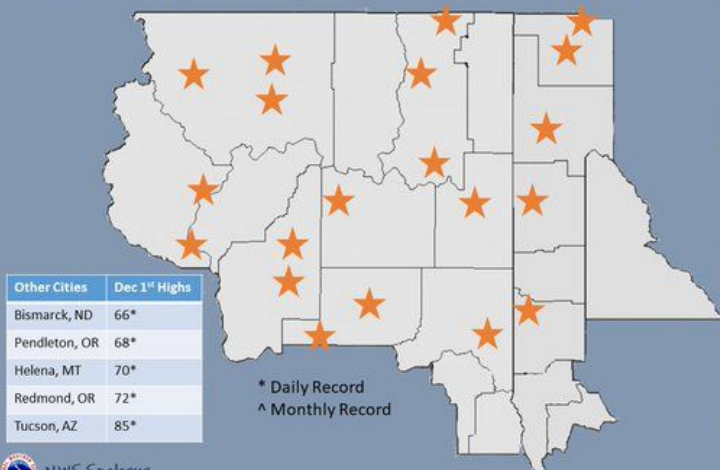


Record Breaking December 1st!

	Dec. 1, 2021 High Temp	NW December 1st Record High	NW December Monthly Record
SPOKANE	59°	✓	
OMAK	74°	✓	✓
WENATCHEE	70°	✓	✓
PULLMAN	62°	✓	
EPHRATA	69°	✓	✓
BONNERS FERRY	57	✓	✓
CHELAN	68	✓	✓
COEUR D'ALENE	60	✓	
DEER PARK	59	✓	
SANDPOINT	55	✓	
ODESSA	63	✓	✓

UPDATED

Record Warmth to Start December



Inland NW Cities	Dec 1st Highs
Bonn timers Ferry	59*^
Boundary Dam	53*^
Chelan	69*^
Coeur d'Alene	60*^
Deer Park	59*^
Colville	63*^
Ephrata	69*^
Mazama	64*^
Northport	57*^
Odessa	63*^
Omak	74*^
Potlatch	59*
Pullman	62*
Ritzville	60*
Sandpoint	56*^
Spokane	59*
Tonasket	60*^
Wenatchee	70*^
Wilbur	63*^

ISSUED: DEC 2, 2021



NWS Spokane @NWSSpokane · Dec 1

Sunset for our first day of Meteorological winter...with record warmth. #wawx #idwx



ISSUED: DEC 2, 2021

December 1, 2021

Record warm temperatures kicked off Winter and the month of December.

Several locations broke daily high temperature records including some monthly December high temperature records.

An interesting fact, 6 months prior locations saw temperatures 20-30+ degrees above normal breaking records, and we saw the same in December.

Warm start to Winter
2021-2022

Issued Dec 2021



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SPOKANE, WA